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Bangalore Mirror

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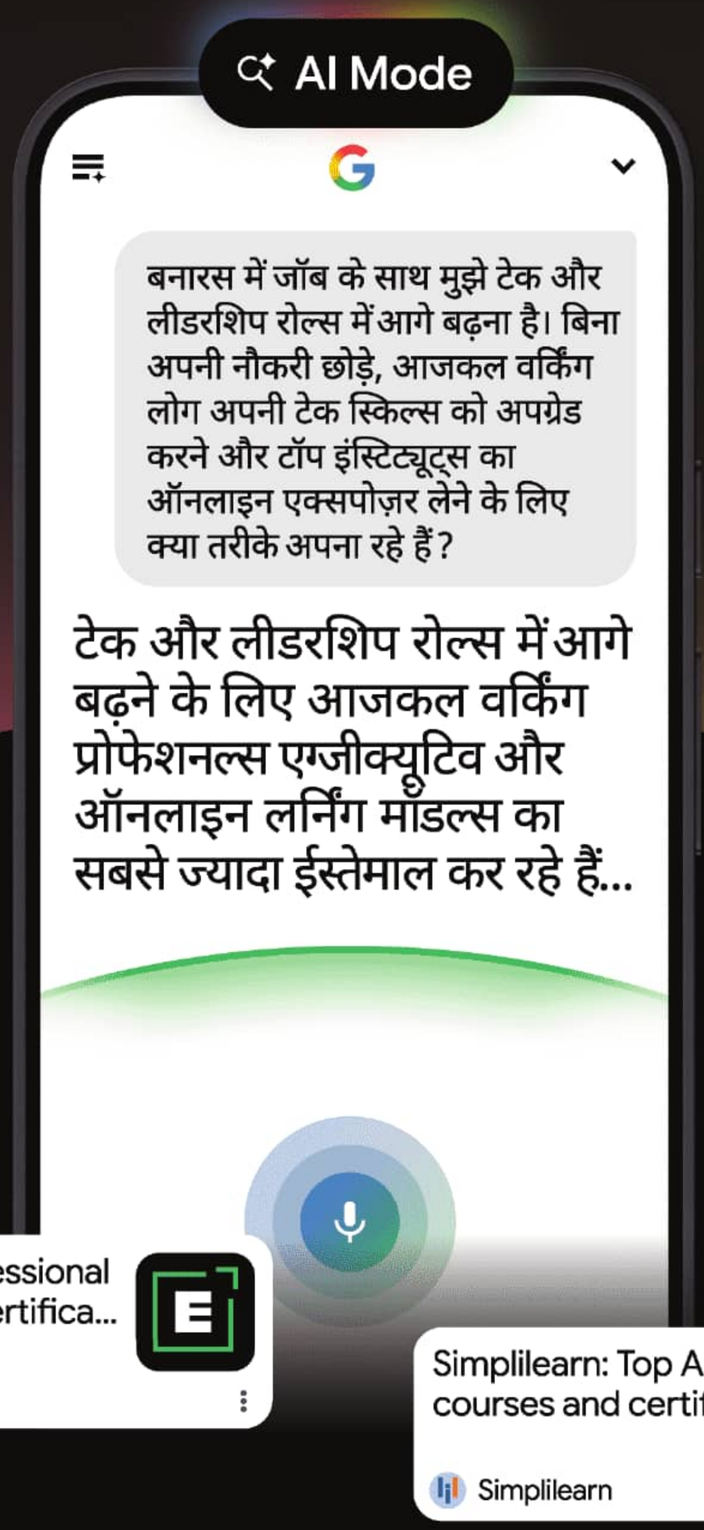

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ON TRACK

Issues related to congestion, train waiting times and shortage of platforms to be addressed as KSR Bengaluru Railway Station to get bigger, better

PAGE 2

WORRY LINES

From abuse within own families to cyber fraud, poor healthcare and devastating effects of extreme weather events — senior citizens face it all

PAGE 5

With climate change pressures, looming El Nino impact and erratic rainfall, water situation doesn't look bright for Bengaluru and sadly just 4 out of every 5 properties in city yet to adopt rainwater harvesting

GLASS IS HALF EMPTY

If monsoon does not improve significantly over next 2 months, situation could become more challenging after September

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KAUSHIK JN

As climate change makes rainfall increasingly erratic, a few spells of rain are no longer enough to guarantee water security through the year. Early trends this season are already raising concerns.

Weak rainfall across key catchment regions, reservoir levels significantly lower than last year and growing uncertainty over the rest of the monsoon have once again brought into focus a question that Bengaluru can no longer afford to ignore: How prepared is the city for a future where rainfall becomes increasingly unpredictable?

Data from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) shows that while the city has over 11.3 lakh water connections, only about 2.18 lakh properties have installed rainwater harvesting systems. This means more than four out of every five connected properties are yet to adopt a mechanism that can reduce dependence on Cauvery water and groundwater recharge.

The implications are significant. Hydrologists estimate that Bengaluru loses a substantial portion of the rain it receives every year because of extensive concretisation and inadequate rainwater capture systems. In many parts of the city, nearly 90% of rainwater flows away as runoff instead of recharging aquifers.

BWSSB estimates have previously suggested that nearly 23 TMC of water is lost annually due to inadequate rainwater harvesting and recharge infrastructure.

> **"Rainfall averages often hide the real picture. What matters is whether rain is falling in the catchment areas that feed rivers and reservoirs. At present, those regions are receiving less rainfall than expected**
>
> —GS Srinivasa Reddy, former director of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre

Missing monsoon

Data till June 15 shows Karnataka has received about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

On a narc trail

More drug detection kits to be supplied to city police stations will cut investigation delays

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With Bengaluru reporting nearly 300 drug-related cases every month, there is always a need for more drug detection kits. The government is planning to supply kits to police stations across Bengaluru to speed up drug-related investigations by allowing police to conduct preliminary tests at the station level instead of waiting for the Scene of Crime Officer (SOCO) team or medical reports before registering the case.

According to a senior police official (CCB), police stations that don't have drug testing kits depend on the SOCO teams for testing suspected narcotic substances seized during raids, inspections, and arrests. This dependency often led to delays in identifying substances, as samples had to be tested by specialised teams before further legal action could be taken.

A senior CCB official explained that the kits are designed to detect commonly abused substances such as ganja, MDMA, cocaine, heroin, and other synthetic narcotics within minutes. During testing, the colour changes help detect drugs with different colours such as purple, blue, orange,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Musical evening

Music lovers can look forward to the Nadasurabhi June Concert featuring noted Carnatic vocalist Nisha Rajagopalan and accompanying artistes. Entry is free and free parking will be available for attendees. **Where: St. John's Medical College Campus, Koramangala; When: June 21, 4.15 pm**

02 Art speaks

To commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of renowned cartoonist Maya Kamath, the Indian Institute of Cartoonistsis hosting an exhibition featuring 150 international cartoons selected from entries to the International Maya Kamath Memorial Cartoon Contest 2026. Centred on the theme of gender equality and women's rights. **Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Midford Garden Road; When: Running until June 27, 10 am to 6 pm**

03 Yoga marathon

To mark International Yoga Day, Nexus Shantiniketan Mall will host Yogathon 2026. Organised in association with The Art of Living Foundation, the event will feature guided yoga sessions, breathing exercises, meditation practices and wellness interactions led by experienced instructors. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Whitefield; When: June 21, 6.30 am to 9.30 am**

04 Mindful boundaries

Urban Solace will host a boundary-setting workshop for working professionals, helping participants build assertive communication skills through reflective exercises, practical strategies and real-life scenarios. The session will be led by three Master's students in Psychological Counselling from Surana College, Kengeri. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: June 21, 11 am to 1 pm**

05 Verse night

Poet and artist Eva Garg will be the featured performer at Tuesdays. The event, recognised in the Limca Book of Records as India's longest-running poetry event. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: June 23, 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

Full steam ahead as KSR untangles rail gridlock

South Western Railway's ambitious overhaul of KSR Bengaluru Station aims to reduce delays, expand capacity and improve train handling through modern infrastructure

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In a significant move to improve rail operations and reduce delays, South Western Railway has launched a major infrastructure upgrade at KSR Bengaluru Railway Station. The project, which commenced on June 15, aims to modernize the station yard, increase platform capacity, and streamline train movements. The work is expected to continue until the first week of August. It is being undertaken to address long-standing issues related to congestion, train waiting times, and the shortage of platforms at one of Bengaluru's busiest railway hubs.

A senior official said, "One of the key objectives of the project is to minimise the time trains spend waiting outside the station before being allotted a platform. At present, trains approaching KSR from different directions are often forced to halt on the outskirts of the city due to a lack of available platforms. This has become a common inconvenience for passengers travelling on routes connecting Mysuru, Yeshwantpur, and Bengaluru Cantonment. Trains arriving from Yeshwantpur frequently wait near Malleswaram, those coming from the Cantonment side are often held near Sivananda Circle, while trains from Mysuru are made to wait near Binny Mill. Similarly, trains approaching Yeshwantpur are often stopped near Banaswadi and Brigade Gate until platforms become available."

The station upgrade includes signalling improvements, platform expansion and operational changes to streamline arrivals and departures

As part of the upgrade, Platform No 7 will be significantly extended. The platform currently measures around 460 metres in length, which limits its ability to accommodate longer trains comprising 21 to 24 LHB coaches. Railway authorities plan to extend the platform up to Okalipuram, increasing its length to nearly 600 metres. Once completed, the extended platform will handle longer trains, thereby improving passenger convenience and easing congestion across the station. Officials believe the expansion will help optimise platform utilisation and reduce operational bottlenecks.

Another major component of the project is the construction of a dedicated loop line for freight trains. Currently, goods trains are often parked on tracks also used by passenger services for inspection and operational purposes. This frequently results in passenger trains being delayed outside the station until the freight trains clear the tracks. The proposed loop line will allow freight trains to be handled separately, ensuring that passenger services can continue without unnecessary interruptions. Railway experts say this measure will significantly improve operational efficiency and reduce waiting times for incoming trains.

The station's signalling infrastructure is also undergoing a major upgrade. Railway authorities are replacing existing manually operated point systems with motorised points and introducing improved signal overlap arrangements. The current interlocking mechanism will be upgraded to an Electronic Interlocking (EI) system, enabling computer-based management of train traffic. This modern technology will enhance operational safety, improve traffic control, and reduce the possibility of accidents caused by technical errors. The upgraded signalling system will also facilitate the simultaneous arrival and departure of trains on certain routes, a capability that was previously restricted due to safety limitations.

Passengers may face short-term disruptions, but the overhaul promises smoother arrivals, fewer waiting trains outside stations and better handling of long-distance services in the months ahead

According to railway officials, the redesigned yard layout will allow more efficient train handling and smoother movement between the KSR Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Bengaluru Cantonment directions. While the ongoing works may temporarily affect train operations, authorities believe the long-term benefits will be substantial. Railway experts have welcomed the initiative, stating that although it may not completely eliminate congestion at KSR Bengaluru Station, it will provide considerable relief and lay the foundation for a more efficient and passenger-friendly railway network in the city.

DGP orders FIRs for non-consensual image sharing

Director General of Police Dr MA Saleem has issued fresh guidelines directing police to immediately register FIRs in cases involving the publication or circulation of private photographs and videos without a person's consent. The order comes amid allegations that police were delaying complaints by citing the victim's prior consent to the recording of the content. The guidelines clarify that consent to capture a photograph or video does not amount to consent for its publication, sharing or circulation. Even if a person agreed to being filmed, sharing the content without their explicit permission constitutes a cognisable offence and warrants prompt police action. The DGP's order directs police to register FIRs in cases involving unauthorised circulation of intimate content, including private images, videos, revenge pornography, blackmail and sexual exploitation. Police cannot refuse FIRs solely because the recording was consensual and must invoke all relevant offences where criminal wrongdoing is evident. **— BMB**

Kits can detect substances within minutes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or brown indicating the presence of a specific drug. Officials said drugs circulating in the market, especially high-value substances like MDMA commonly sold in the city's nightlife scene, are often adulterated, counterfeit, or entirely replaced with hazardous synthetic chemicals. In some cases, even crushed tablets are sold as narcotics to maximise profits, posing serious health risks to users. These adulterations and substitutions can also be identified during the testing process.

During a review meeting earlier this month, Home minister Priyank Kharge held detailed discussions on narcotics trafficking. He noted that drugs are often smuggled through neighbouring states such as Maharashtra, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh using varied routes and methods. "Psychotropic substances are easier to transport and conceal compared to conventional bulk narcotics. We reviewed the different smuggling patterns and discussed measures to strengthen enforcement and improve detection capabilities," he said. As part of efforts to curb drug trafficking, the government is planning to increase the availability of drug detection and testing kits available to enforcement agencies.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told Bangalore Mirror there is currently no shortage of drug testing kits but as more police stations have been established now, the city will require more drug testing kits. Once implemented, the availability of these kits is expected to speed up the investigation.

Officials said the increased availability of rapid detection kits at police stations will significantly reduce this waiting period and allow for quicker on-the-spot verification of suspected drugs. DCP (Central division) Akshay Hakay Machhindra explained that at present, police officials have to send samples for medical examination and wait for nearly 12 hours to receive reports from the medical team before proceeding with further legal action and registering a case. This delay often slows down the initial stages of drug-related investigations.

With the availability of rapid drug testing kits at police stations, officers will be able to conduct preliminary checks on the spot itself allowing police to get an initial confirmation without depending entirely on laboratory reports. Once a positive result is obtained at the station level, the police can immediately move forward with registering the case and starting further investigation, Machhindra added.

CRIME FILES

Doddanna files complaint over death rumours

Veteran Kannada actor Doddanna has lodged a complaint with the North Division Cyber Crime Police against unidentified persons for spreading false news of his death on social media.

The complaint was filed on June 15 after a social media account named Public Friend shared a post claiming the actor had passed away and offering condolences. The post went viral, triggering panic among his family, fans, and members of the film industry. As rumours spread rapidly online, Doddanna appeared before the media to confirm that he was alive and doing well, urging the public not to trust unverified social media posts."This is not the first time false rumours about my death have surfaced. However, this time, I have chosen to pursue legal action to ensure those responsible are brought to justice," the actor told police. In his complaint, the actor alleged that the fake content was edited using artificial intelligence tools, causing severe mental distress and emotional trauma to him and his family. **–BMB**

12-year-old injured after pet Rottweiler attack

A 12-year-old boy was reportedly attacked and bitten by a pet Rottweiler in Mahadevapura, following which police booked the dog's owner and his family members on charges of negligence and criminal intimidation.

According to the FIR, complainant Vipin V, an ex-serviceman, said his neighbour Shyam regularly allowed his pet dog roam without a muzzle or proper restraint, posing a risk to residents of Maheshwari Nagar. The incident occurred around 2.30 pm on June 13 when Vipin's son was riding his bicycle on the street. The dog allegedly ran out through the gate and bit the boy on his right hip, causing injuries.

Vipin approached Shyam's family seeking an explanation, but they claimed the boy may have provoked the dog and allegedly threatened him if he approached police. **–BMB**

CCB busts prostitution racket

CCB Women Protection Squad officers have arrested six persons for allegedly running a prostitution racket from rented houses and a spa. According to officials, they received a tip-off which led to raids at Kamakshipalya, KR Puram, Kumaraswamy Layout, Varthur and Hennur police station limits.

Officials rescued seven women, of whom four are from other states and three are locals.

The accused confessed that they were using the spa as a front for conducting illegal activities. They also revealed that clients were contacted over the telephone and arrangements were made for rented houses where the services could be provided. **–BMB**

2 held in burglary, gold worth Rs 21 lakh recovered

Vidyaranyapura police officials have arrested two persons and seized 135 grams of gold ornaments and gold bullion along with Rs 5,500 in cash, amounting to a total value of Rs 21 lakh. A resident of Doddabommasandra lodged a complaint with the police on June 2, stating that his house had been broken into and valuables were missing.

The police identified two suspects on June 3 and apprehended them near a lodge in Gandhinagar. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and further revealed that they had committed two more thefts in Vidyaranyapura. **–BMB**

24 COTPA cases, 231 fined for public smoking

In a special enforcement drive across all 13 police station limits of North Division on Wednesday, police registered 24 cases under the COTPA Act and fined 231 persons for smoking in prohibited public places, while also booking 34 petty cases during surprise inspections conducted at smoke-free zones and shops illegally displaying tobacco advertisements. **–BMB**

'First time I am hearing about SIR'

Interactions with citizens by the 'My Vote, My Right' campaign has revealed that a vast majority of people remain completely unaware about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Around 22 members of the campaign travelled across different parts of the city on Wednesday, interacting with residents in Malleswaram, Yeshwanthpur and Peenya to raise awareness about the SIR process and the importance of protecting voting rights. Campaign organisers said they spoke to over 1,000 people, including bus commuters, street vendors, garment workers and shop owners, and distributed informational pamphlets. Citizens were urged to contact Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to verify their mapping status and keep the necessary documents ready for the SIR process.

According to the organisers, awareness levels among the public were alarmingly low. They claimed that among the roughly 1,000 people they interacted with, only a handful had even heard of the SIR process, while just one person had confirmed that their voter mapping process had been completed. The campaign alleged that neither the Election Commission nor the state government had undertaken adequate public outreach on the issue despite repeated demands for wider voter awareness efforts.

"I have been voting regularly for years, but this is the first time I am hearing about SIR. No one has contacted me or explained whether I need to submit any documents," said Ramesh, a garment worker. Lakshmamma, a street vendor in Vijaynagar, said she was unaware that voter records were being updated. "I thought my voter ID was enough. I did not know there was a process called SIR or that I might have to check my details with a BLO," she said. A bus commuter echoed similar concerns, saying, "If this affects our names on the voter list, the government and Election Commission should inform people properly."

Warning that low levels of awareness could result in large-scale deletion of voter names in Karnataka, the organisers called on citizens to unite to safeguard their voting rights and participate actively in the electoral process. **–BMB**

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- Professor of Practice in CS&E, E&CE, Civil, E&EE and MBA. Eligibility as per AICTE norms.

MCA Dept.
- Professor, Associate Professor : Ph.D is Compulsory.

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Monsoon worries mount over blocked drainage pipeline

Rainwater diversion system remains contentious as blocked pipe threatens flooding, prompting court intervention and renewed scrutiny of framework

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Some of the residents on Mallathahalli 2nd Cross Road have been facing flooding during heavy rains. Their homes were inundated and the area resembled a swimming pool. To address the issue, BBMP authorities made a temporary arrangement by laying a pipe through Sidvin Grace Apartment Complex to channel rainwater into a nearby storm water drain.

Residents said there was no water logging or flooding in the area until the apartment complex was constructed. According to them, flooding began during heavy rain after the drain that carried rainwater to the nearest storm water drain was closed because of the apartment's construction.

Later, the Department of Civil Engineering, Bangalore University, was tasked with designing a rainwater diversion plan after construction of Sidvin Grace Apartment, NGEF Layout, obstructed natural flow. The March 2020 plan recommended two 0.8-metre diameter pipes instead of 18 smaller pipes. However, BBMP authorities installed only one 0.8-metre diameter pipe.

"There were no problems for the last few years as rainwater was flowing without any obstructions through the pipe laid by the authorities. Now, the exit of the pipe is closed by the residents on the southern side," said Sadashiv, a resident.

With no other option, residents approached the Karnataka High Court seeking directions to the authorities. "The High Court ordered the authorities to implement the rainwater rerouting as per the BBMP report along with the opening of storm water drains with police protection. The BBMP rainwater rerouting report mentions that the rain pipes of 2 Nos of 0.8 meters are to be provided, but the actual pipe provided is 1 no. Of 0.6 meters," said Naveen BG, a resident.

"We took the decision to close the pipe as it became tough for us to cope with bad odors emanating from dirty water. We allowed laying the pipe on humanitarian grounds, but some people misused it by letting dirty water into the pipe," said Ravi Kumar.

Meanwhile, Sidvin Grace Apartment Owners Association president Suchitra R said the association had nothing to do with the closure of the pipe.

BWCC Assistant Executive Engineer (Mallathahalli) Varun Narayan said, "I have issued notices to the residents. I will investigate the matter."

The pipe that carries rainwater is closed by a few residents on the southern side

- The authorities laid only one pipe instead of two pipes as per the report submitted by the Civil Engineering Department of Bangalore University.
- With the closure of the existing pipe that carries rainwater, residents worry about recurring flooding and water logging whenever it rains heavily.

"We took the decision to close the pipe as it became tough for us to cope with bad odors emanating from dirty water. We allowed laying the pipe on humanitarian grounds, but some people misused it by letting dirty water into the pipe –Ravi Kumar, a resident

Dead lakes to tackle B'luru flooding

In a bid to tackle recurring road flooding during heavy rains, the Greater Bengaluru Authority's Climate Action Cell has drawn up plans to convert 19 defunct lakes and select parks into natural rainwater absorption zones. The first phase will focus on lakes at Lingarajapuram, Chikkalasandra and Ittamadu, along with Silver Jubilee Park near Town Hall. These sites will be redesigned using natural materials such as stone and soil to improve water percolation and temporarily hold excess rainwater for up to 48 hours before it drains.

Officials said the city's inventory of 19 dead lakes includes water bodies encroached upon or converted into layouts, housing projects, playgrounds, parks and stadiums. The authority plans to reclaim available portions of some encroached lakes and develop them as water-retention zones. Similar interventions are planned at Sampangirama Lake and Hennur Tree Park.

Race to protect Bengaluru's only bird reserve

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After a long hiatus, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has resumed drainage diversion works at the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve to prevent sewage from entering the ecologically sensitive lake.

According to BWSSB officials, the ongoing work to divert sewage from surrounding areas to the under-construction sewage treatment plant (STP) at Yelahanka is expected to be completed within two months.

"The drainage connection work at the reserve was temporarily halted due to upstream works that required our attention. The project restarted on June 13, and we have factored in the monsoon while setting a two-month completion timeline," said a senior BWSSB official.

Bengaluru's only bird conservation reserve has faced significant ecological stress since May 2024, when the western bund of the lake was breached and sewage from an overflowing stormwater drain entered the waterbody.

Following the sewage inflow, BBMP, now the Greater Bengaluru Authority, began pipeline-laying work in and around the lake after securing KFD approval. However, the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust approached the NGT, which subsequently restrained the civic body from continuing the project.

Residents raise concerns

While the work has resumed, residents and lake conservationists have expressed concerns over its execution. According to a 2024 KFD permission letter, authorities were allowed to lay a 1,600-metre stormwater drain hume pipeline and a 700-mm sewer pipeline, along with supporting infrastructure, to prevent sewage inflow into the lake. Lake experts pointed out that the Greater Bengaluru Authority's stormwater pipeline should ideally be installed first, followed by BWSSB's 700-mm trunk sewer pipeline leading to the proposed Yelahanka Kere Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"It is unclear whether this technical sequencing is being followed by the agencies involved. The lake is currently covered with weeds, and the walking path has been completely dug up. We hope BWSSB and GBA will restore the area to its original condition before the sewage inflow incident of 2024," said a lake expert and resident of Yelahanka.

Reserve conservation efforts continue amid infrastructure concerns

Long-term mandated

The KFD approval letter stipulated that the area must be restored to its original state after completion of the works. BWSSB and GBA have also been directed to bear restoration costs and fund additional habitat improvement measures identified in consultation with forest officials.

Further, KFD instructed BWSSB, GBA, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), and local village panchayats to prepare a long-term catchment management plan to prevent sewage inflow and protect habitats of resident and migratory birds.

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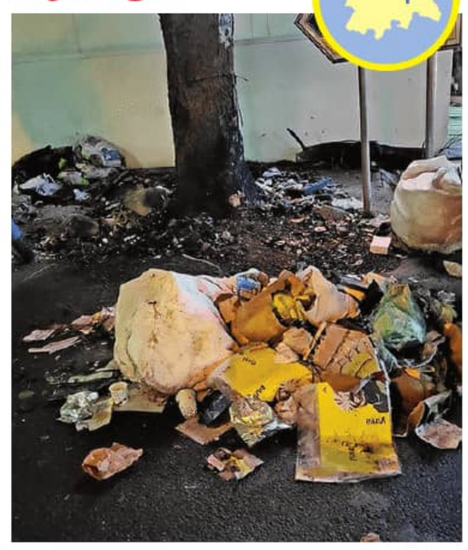

Multiple unattended cave-ins and damaged road stretches on 39th Cross Road in Jayanagar's 4th T Block continue to pose risks to motorists despite repeated complaints.

Pending work
Seshadripuram

The newly developed TenderSURE First Main Road in Seshadripuram remains dug up at Upper Pipeline Junction, with restoration work still pending.

Pothole peril
Shivajinagar

A large pothole near Jumma Masjid Road and Lal Masjid in Shivajinagar has remained unattended for over six weeks, posing a serious risk to commuters, particularly during post-rain waterlogging.

RTE extension plan hits legal roadblock

The High Court of Karnataka has granted an interim stay on the implementation of a State government circular that sought to extend the benefits available under the Right to Education (RTE) framework to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students studying in Classes 9 and 10.

Justice Ashok S Kinagi passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed by the Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) and other private school associations. The petitioners challenged a May 21, 2026, circular directing schools to retain SC/ST students in Classes 9 and 10 under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act. They argued that the Act covers only Classes 1 to 8 and that the government cannot expand its scope through an administrative circular. The associations also contended that authorities were pressuring schools to implement the circular despite admissions for the academic year already being completed. The court stayed the circular pending further consideration. —BMB

IN COURT

Court warns against criminalising civil battles

The Karnataka High Court has underscored the responsibility of trial courts to carefully evaluate the existence of ongoing civil disputes before allowing criminal prosecutions to proceed.

Justice M Nagaprasanna made the observation while quashing criminal proceedings initiated by Bengaluru city police against several individuals and their advocate over property transactions involving sale deeds executed nearly two decades ago. Citing Supreme Court principles, the court said criminal proceedings cannot continue without legally credible material merely because parties are engaged in a civil dispute. It emphasised that "the criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest."

Describing the dispute, the court observed that "a simmering land dispute between the parties has been artfully clothed in the robes of criminal prosecution in the complete absence of even an iota of criminality."

The court also stressed safeguards against misuse of criminal process. —BMB

Caste census report not made available

The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes informed the High Court that its report on the social and educational survey, commonly referred to as the caste census, has not been made available to any individual or entity.

The submission came during hearings on a batch of petitions challenging the caste-based survey conducted to assess the socio-economic status of various communities. Responding to concerns raised by the petitioners, counsel for the commission said the report had not been disclosed to anyone and that there had been no violation of the court's interim directions. Taking note of the submission, the court adjourned the matter.

The petitions, filed by the Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha, members of the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayata Mahasabha and others, are being heard by a Division Bench led by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru. The petitioners have raised concerns over confidentiality and the handling of survey data, citing media reports that allegedly disclosed findings before official publication of the report. —BMB

No country for old men: Abuse, fraud, neglect in twilight years

As ageing Indians face rising abuse, cybercrime, climate shocks, healthcare gaps, loneliness and financial insecurity, experts warn of a deepening crisis

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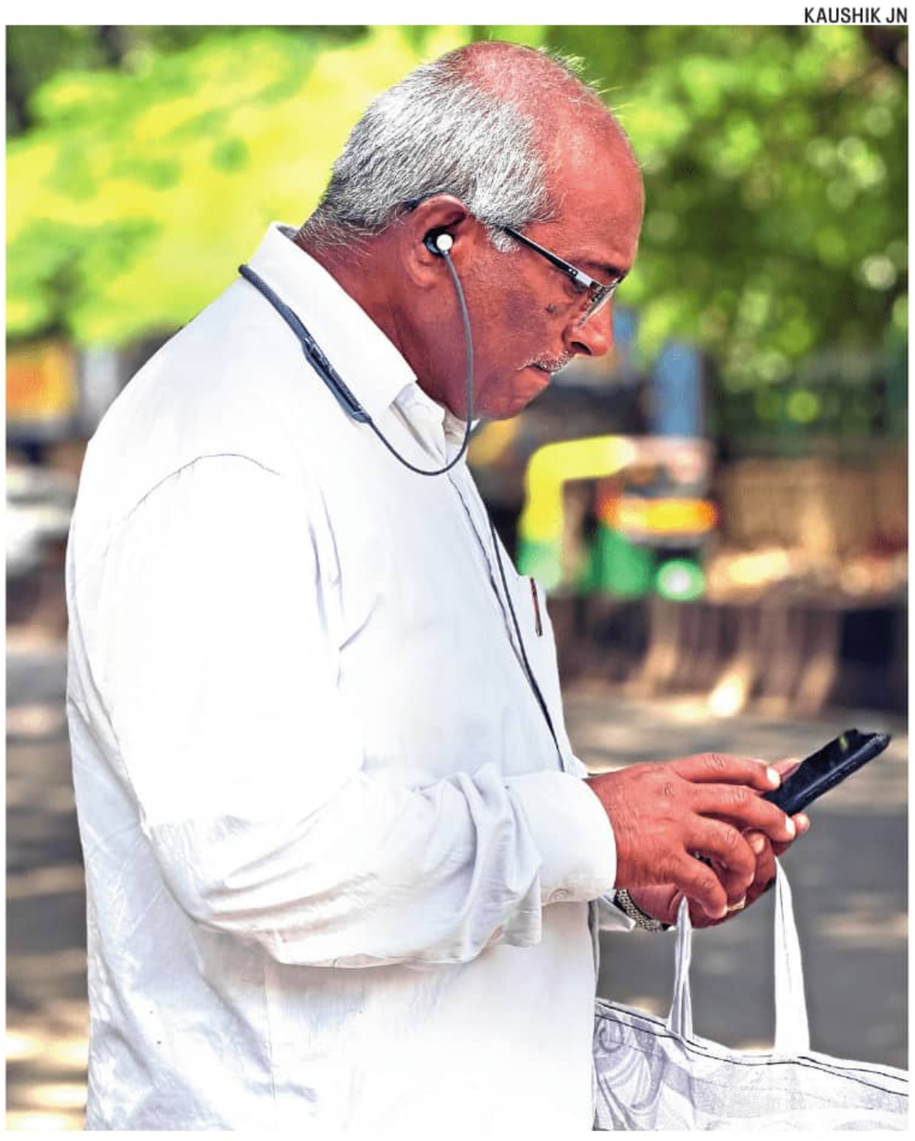
For many, old age was once expected to be a period of rest, dignity and family support after a lifetime of hard work. Today, however, that promise appears increasingly fragile. Senior citizens confront a growing range of threats, from emotional and financial abuse within their own families to cyber fraud, poor access to healthcare and the devastating effects of extreme weather events. As the world observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was observed recently, experts warn that India's elderly population faces a silent crisis that often goes unnoticed.

KAUSHIK JN



Hidden abuse

Cases of elder abuse are becoming alarmingly common. Disputes over property, forced evictions from family homes, emotional neglect and abandonment are frequently reported. Senior citizen helplines receive an average of 40 complaints every day relating to abuse, harassment and neglect by family members.

The situation is worsened by a rapidly changing digital landscape. Cybercriminals increasingly view senior citizens as easy targets, exploiting their limited familiarity with technology and online banking systems. Fraudsters posing as bank officials, pension authorities, telecom regulators and even law enforcement officers routinely trick elderly victims into sharing OTPs, bank details and passwords. Hundreds of senior citizens have fallen victim to cybercrime. The latest case involved a 74-year-old resident of East Bengaluru who was allegedly cheated out of nearly 24 crore in a five-month "digital arrest" scam. Yet financial fraud is only one part of the problem.

Climate burden

A recent HelpAge India report, Climate Resilient Ageing: Ensuring Care, Dignity and Agency, reveals that older persons are increasingly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, economic uncertainty and inadequate social support systems. According to the report, 60 per cent of older persons said their homes were not fully safe during heatwaves. Although 90 per cent stayed indoors and 81 per cent increased their water intake during periods of extreme heat, 74 per cent reported falling ill, while existing health conditions worsened for 44 per cent. Nearly one-third struggled to access healthcare services during such emergencies.

Heatwaves, pension dependence and inadequate services are deepening vulnerabilities among seniors, particularly those living independently or without caregivers

"Older persons are among those most at risk from rising climate shocks, yet they remain largely invisible in climate response efforts. Climate impacts affect their health, income, housing, care and overall wellbeing," said Rohit Prasad, Chief Executive Officer of HelpAge India.

Healthcare remains a major concern for India's ageing population. Nearly half of the older persons surveyed reported living with long-term physical impairments. Mobility difficulties affect 32 per cent, while vision-related impairments affect 24 per cent. Despite these challenges, more than 52 per cent said they could not afford essential medicines. Government hospitals and Primary Health Centres continue to be the primary healthcare providers for many elderly citizens, particularly in rural areas. However, access remains uneven, especially during emergencies and extreme weather conditions.

Family continues to be the backbone of elder care in India. The report found that 73 per cent of older persons live with children or relatives, while 94 per cent of those requiring care receive support from family members. Sons provide care in 31 per cent of cases, spouses in 30 per cent and daughters-in-law in 17 per cent. However, changing family structures and migration are placing increasing pressure on these traditional support systems. Nearly 18 per cent of households reported that a family member had migrated for employment, with sons accounting for 76 per cent of such migration. As younger generations move away in search of better opportunities, ageing parents are often left with limited support.

Among elderly Indians, lonliness, economic insecurity and lack of care remain major concerns. Many depend on neighbours or pensions, while some face neglect, abuse and loss of dignity in old age.

IN BRIEF

Businessman abducted, robbers flee with Rs 1 crore

A 41-year-old businessman has alleged that he and his driver were abducted at knifepoint and robbed of ₹1.09 crore in cash by a gang of seven unidentified men on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

The complainant, Shiva Shankar, a resident of Dasanapura Hobli and owner of a security agency, told police that he was involved in an investment venture with associates from Andhra Pradesh through a company named ANRS (American Nuclear Reactor System).

He reportedly received ₹35 lakh on June 13 and another ₹74 lakh at a hotel in Yelahanka on June 15. Around 11.05 pm, near Kunigal Road, the gang allegedly intercepted his car, abducted him and his driver, seized the cash, and fled. —BMB

Loan row ends in friend's murder

A minor quarrel between two friends turned fatal after one allegedly stabbed the other to death following an argument over abusive remarks against his family in NIMHANS Layout under the Bengaluru City Police limits of Suddaguntepalya police station on Tuesday around 12 pm.

The deceased was identified as Wasim (29), a resident of NIMHANS Layout. Police arrested the accused, Syed (29), and took him into custody for questioning. According to police, the dispute began over 4,000 that Syed had borrowed from Wasim and allegedly failed to repay. During the argument, Wasim allegedly abused Syed's mother and sister, prompting Syed to stab him multiple times. Syed later rushed Wasim to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Further investigation is underway. —BMB

Don't let the rain go in vain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

67.7 mm of rainfall against a a normal of 85.5 mm — that is a deficit of nearly 21%. Usually, the opening phase of the southwest monsoon delivers substantial rainfall to Coastal Karnataka, Malnad and the Cauvery catchment regions. These areas act as Karnataka's natural water reservoirs, feeding rivers, replenishing groundwater and filling dams that supply drinking water and irrigation across the state. This year, however, the pattern has been unusually uneven.

Coastal Karnataka has recorded a rainfall deficit of around 41%, while Malnad has received nearly 36% less rainfall than normal. The Cauvery basin districts, crucial to Bengaluru's drinking water supply, have also seen below-normal rainfall. Yet at the same time, parts of North Interior Karnataka have received significantly higher rainfall, with some areas reporting rainfall close to or above normal levels.

For weather experts, this imbalance is more significant than the overall state deficit.

"Rainfall averages often hide the real picture. What matters is whether rain is falling in the catchment areas that feed rivers and reservoirs. At present, those regions are receiving less rainfall than expected," said GS Srinivasa Reddy, former director of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.

Reddy said that the southwest monsoon arrived later than usual after a delayed onset over Kerala. While rainfall activity was initially vigorous, it weakened in subsequent days. He attributed this to weaker moisture transport from the Arabian Sea and the absence of strong low-pressure systems that typically help sustain widespread monsoon rainfall over peninsular India. As a result, the monsoon's advance and intensity have remained inconsistent across several parts of Karnataka.

Experts caution that June rainfall alone does not determine the fate of the monsoon. July and August remain the most important months. However, the current pattern has raised concerns because the regions responsible for generating reservoir inflows are among those receiving the least rainfall.

Not up to capacity

The impact is already visible in the state's water storage figures. As of June 15, reservoirs across the Krishna and Cauvery river basins held only 206.45 TMC of water against a total storage capacity of 895.65 TMC. During the same period last year, storage levels stood at 349 TMC. The four major Cauvery reservoirs currently hold about 33 TMC of water, compared to nearly 80 TMC during the corresponding period in 2025. The Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir, one of Bengaluru's primary drinking water sources, has significantly lower storage than it did a year ago.

Hydrologists say this reflects not only weak monsoon activity but also poor pre-monsoon rainfall across southern Karnataka. Reddy said last year, Karnataka received nearly 280 mm of pre-monsoon rainfall against a normal of around 120 mm.

Those early showers helped saturate catchments and generate strong reservoir inflows once the monsoon arrived. This year, pre-monsoon rainfall remained subdued across Malnad and South Interior Karnataka, reducing the ability of catchments to generate runoff.

El Niño fear

Meteorologists are also closely watching developments in the Pacific Ocean. Reddy said that historically, El Niño events have often been associated with weaker monsoon performance over India, although the relationship is neither automatic nor uniform.

RESERVE WATER FOR BENGALURU: BWSSB

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) wrote to the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (CNNL), requesting that 9.56 TMC of water be reserved exclusively for Bengaluru's drinking water requirements until September. Officials fear that if the monsoon does not improve significantly over the next two months, the situation could become more challenging after September.

A BWSSB official said, "Currently, we supply water to more than 11.5 lakh connections across Bengaluru, serving a population estimated at around 1.5 crore. The utility has the capacity to supply 2,225 MLD of water daily, including 775 MLD from the Cauvery Stage V project. As many households in the 110 villages under Stage V are yet to obtain connections, nearly 50% of the allocated water remains unused and is being distributed through the Mobile Cauvery scheme. Despite this, we estimate the available storage is enough to meet the city's drinking water demand for only about four months under current conditions. We appeal to residents to use drinking water judiciously and avoid unnecessary consumption."

According to officials, Bengaluru needs around 2.13 TMC of water every month. At present, a total of 9.56 TMC is expected to be available for the city over the next months. After this, authorities must maintain between 4.4 and 7 TMC of dead storage in KRS, which cannot be utilised for irrigation or any other purpose. Up to 50% of this reserve can only be drawn in an extreme drinking water emergency.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Gururaja Raghu S/o Raghu GS, 282, 6th A Crs, RPC Layout Blr-104 changed name to Gururaj R. by affidavit dt. 16/06/26.

I, ZAKIRA SHABNAM, R/a, Bowrilalpet Reddy Field Behind Moidu Palace, Robertsonpet, KGF Kolar - 563122.. in my Educational documents my name was mention as ZAKIRUNNISA. I, have to change my Name as (New Name) ZAKIRA SHABNAM, I further state that both name i.e. ZAKIRUNNISA and ZAKIRA SHABNAM. the both name belongs to me only.Vide affidavit, dated 17/06/2026 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I Ramesh, #10rd Floor, Ashoknagar 8th Cross, Santhrupthi Nilaya, Gangamma Temple Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560050 have change my name RAMESH RAJ SHAMRAJ vide affidavit dt.: 24.01.2023 sworn before notary D.S. Chandrakanth, Bangalore

I, Mahammed Azam Pasha R/o # 402 1st Cross Old Extension K R Puram Bangalore 560036 have changed my name to Mohammed Azam Pasha

I, Surendra Gopala Shanbhag, s/o late K G K SHANBHAG residing in 336, SRIHARI, IV main, V block, HBR L/O, B'lore- 43. Have changed my name to SURENDRA GOPALA SHANBHOG For all purposes, vide affidavit No. 52 Dated 16/06/26 sworn before Notary public MIR ZIA ULLA Reg.no 19214 Bangalore-43

I, Ernest Godfrey alias Ernest Godfary Srthyrkumar S/O Ernest A Packyamathan, R/o #506, Spring Dale, 1st Cross, 8th Block Koramangala, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Koramangala Vi Block, Karnataka -560095, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ernest Godfrey Sathyakumar.

I, MUDASSIRA MARYAM ZIA, R/a.#26,1st Floor Bharathnagar, MM Layout Thanisandra Main Road Bangalore-77. I, have Changed my name to MUDASSIRA MARYAM, Vide affidavit, dated 16/06/2026 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, MUJEEBUR RAHAMAN, R/a No.3224,Kumbar Road, Bangarpet-563114. I, have Changed my name to SHAIK MUJEEB UR REHAMAN, Vide affidavit dated16/06/2026 Sworn before Notary: R. Basavaraja. Bangalore

I, Manju Sundar R/o No.103/39, Mylasandra, Begur post, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my minor daughter name from Vaiga Manju Sunder to Vaiga Manju Sundar. She will be called by this name for all purposes

I, MUSARATH BANO, R/a No.60,Mini Ibrahim Road, KGF, Robertsonpet, Bangarpet-563122. I, have Changed my name to MUSARATH BANU, Vide affidavit, dated 16/06/2026 Sworn before Notary: R. Basavaraja. Bangalore

I, A.M. HITHESH, R/a, No.C-94, 4th Block,12th Main,4th Cross, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-34. I, have Changed my name to HITHESH ASHOK, Vide affidavit, dated 15/06/2026 Sworn before Notary Sivakumara M.N Bangalore

I, Anthonyswamy Rajkumar s/o C Anthonyswamy R/o No.195, 7th cross, New Baiyapanahalli Extn, Indiranagar Bengaluru 560038 have changed my name to Rajkumar. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Chanabasappa S Nandihala S/o Sharanabasappa R/o 202, 2nd Flr D Blk Pyramid Mahika Apts, Yelahanka Shivanahalli Jakkur Main Road Bengaluru - 560064 have changed my name to Channabasappa S Nandihal for all purposes

I, HAIDAR SAB, R/a No.16, KGF Main Road, Deshihalli, Bangarpet - 563162. I, have Changed my name to HYDER SAB, Vide affidavit ,dated 16/06/2026 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, WAJEEHA BEGUM, W/o MOHAMMED JAMEEL, R/o No 68, 4th Main Maruthi HSBC, BTM Layout 1st Stage, Bangalore South, Dharmaram College, Bengaluru-560029. I have changed my name to MOOKANI WAJEEHA BEGUM vide affidavit dated: 13/06/2026 FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, PERVEEN TAJ, R/a No.16, KGF Main Road, Deshihalli, Bangarpet- 563162. I, have Changed my name to PARVEEN TAJ, Vide affidavit, dated 16/06/2026 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, Mussarath Parveen Amanulla R/o # No 08 17th Cross 4th Main Road Lakkasandra Bangalore 560030 have changed my name to Mussarath Parveen

I Praveen Vandar Shetty, S/o, Giliyar Ravindra Shetty, Residing At, 674,5th Cross, Bsk 1st Stage,2nd Block,Hanuma - nthanagar, Bengaluru 560050, have changed my Name to Praveen Shetty for all purposes

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GOAT strikes again & again & again

Lionel Messi ties men's World Cup goals record with hat trick

Lionel Messi used the front of his white-and-blue, sweat-soaked jersey to wipe the tears from his eyes, a flood of emotions cracking his usually calm, confident demeanor after he gave Argentina an early lead in its World Cup opener against Algeria.

Then he scored again. And again.

Suddenly, any questions about Messi's hamstring injury, or whether he could help Argentina become the third team to win consecutive World Cups — even as his 39th birthday approaches next week — had been answered. With a brilliant hat trick in a 3-0 win over Les Fennecs, Messi moved into a tie with Germany's Miroslav Klose for the career scoring record at the men's World Cup.

"My tears after the first goal? I've had some tough days. It wasn't related to football. And those feelings were because of that," Messi said afterward, without elaborating. "I thank my teammates, the coaching staff and the delegation for helping me."

Messi scored that emotional first goal in the opening minutes on a nifty feed from Inter Miami teammate Rodrigo De Paul, the second off an opportunistic rebound early in the second half, and the third on a crisp strike moments before subbing out to a standing ovation from a crowd of 69,045 tilted heavily toward the three-time World Cup champions.

"At a loss for words about Leo. What can I say?" Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "He's incredible."

His incredible trio of goals came 20 years to the day that Messi made his World Cup debut in a match against Serbia and Montenegro — he scored in that one, too — and made the pride of Rosario only the second player to score in five editions of the men's tournament.

Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates scoring their second goal

COPYRIGHT AFP

Messi has 16 goals in his record six World Cup appearances overall, and it seems inevitable that Klose's record will fall in the coming weeks. The hat trick was the 61st of Messi's career, his 11th while playing in his national team colors and his first in the World Cup.It also was the fifth straight World Cup game in which Messi has scored.

"It makes me very happy to have lived through everything that came my way. What I'm living though now is the cherry on top," Messi said. "I'm very happy an grateful for this wonderful group. I enjoy it so much."

Messi upstaged two of soccer's other stars — Kylian Mbappé of France and Erling Haaland of Norway — who had big games of their own on Tuesday. Mbappé scored twice in France's 3-1 win over Senegal to move into a tie for fourth on the men's World Cup goals list with 14, while Haaland scored twice for Norway in its 4-1 victory over Iraq.

"Messi is a madman," Haaland said in a post on Snapchat during Argentina's game.

"This is my sixth World Cup, and I still feel like I'm in good shape," Messi said. "It's important to start the tournament with a victory in the first game, as that's never easy in a World Cup." —AP

Like father, like son

Norway field three sons of former players in a match

It marked one of the rarest moments in football's history as Norway became the first team in FIFA World Cup to field three sons of former World Cup players in the same match, during the ongoing edition of the showpiece event in the US, Canada and Mexico.

Notably, Norway's Erling Haaland, Alexander Sorloth, and Kristian Thorstvedt featured in the match against Iraq on Tuesday (local time), marking a historic moment. Remarkably, 32 years earlier, at the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Norway had also fielded Alf-Inge Haaland (Erling Haaland's father), Goran Sorloth (Alexander Sorloth's father), and Erik Thorstvedt (Kristian Thorstvedt's father) together in their match against Italy on June 23, 1994.

Coming to Norway's match against Iraq on Tuesday, Haaland marked his World Cup debut with a brace as Norway secured a commanding 4-1 victory, overcoming a determined performance from their opponents. The Manchester City striker scored twice, while goals from Leo Ostigard and an own goal by Iraq's Aymen Hussein sealed the win for Norway. Iraq started brightly and created better early chances, with Aymen Hussein heading over from close range before Ali Al Hamadi sent a shot high from distance.

Norway, however, took the lead in the 29th minute when Haaland was perfectly placed at the back post to finish a low cross from David Moller Wolfe. The Iraqi side responded 10 minutes later as Hussein powered in a header from Amir Al Ammari's delivery, but Norway regained the advantage before half-time when Haaland pressed goalkeeper Jalal Hassan, forcing a mistake that resulted in the ball going into the net. Despite Iraq missing several chances to level the score before the break, Norway held firm going into half-time. Norway eventually extended their lead in the 76th minute when Ostigard headed in from a corner following Kristian Thorstvedt's effort. —ANI

The game will be back after a short hydration break

Livano Comenencia had scored a goal for the smallest nation by population to ever qualify for the World Cup against four-time champion Germany.

At 1-1 in Houston a famous upset looked possible.

Then came the hydration break.

Curaçao lost the initiative, conceding two goals before halftime in what eventually became a 7-1 defeat to the Germans.

"I actually felt sorry for them," former England striker Alan Shearer told The Rest is Football podcast. "They scored and then it was maybe 30 seconds after that it stopped. So it's killed their momentum."

FIFA's new hydration breaks midway through each half — a novelty for this World Cup — were introduced to help players deal with the summer heat in the United States, Canada and Mexico. But critics say they're having unintended consequences, ruining the flow of the game and giving coaches a chance to tactically shift momentum in their team's favor.

While player welfare is a real concern with temperatures expected to exceed 90 F (32 C) in the hottest World Cup venues, some say the hydration breaks are just an excuse for broadcasters to go to commercials in the middle of the game.

"We're in America, right? So, it's like it is a timeout," former Ireland international Roy Keane said on The Overlap, a podcast that he co-hosts with long-time Manchester United teammate Gary Neville. "We love football because of the pace of the game ... what it's doing is stopping the flow of the game, the momentum." Rather than players merely taking on fluids, coaches have been seizing the opportunity to pass on in-game tactical instructions that would normally not be possible. And early indications are that it is having an effect.

Austria coach Ralf Rangnick speaks to players during a hydration break

In eight of the first 16 games there were goals scored within 10 minutes of the rehydration break.

Curaçao never recovered after the restart against Germany.

Morocco paid the price against Brazil in New Jersey, having dominated the game from the start and scored just before the first break. Less that 10 minutes after play resumed the game was level with Vinicius Junior equalising. Canada, the U.S., Australia, Scotland, Sweden and Iran have all benefited with goals soon after the break.

FIFA stipulated that the breaks would occur regardless of the weather, venue or location, meaning the Spain vs. Cape Verde match in Atlanta on Monday was interrupted despite being under a roof and in an air conditioned stadium.

The governing body said it was to "ensure equal conditions for all teams, in all matches." —AP

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

[(√128 * √32) +∛(64)] / [∛(1000) + ∛(343)] = ?

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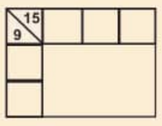
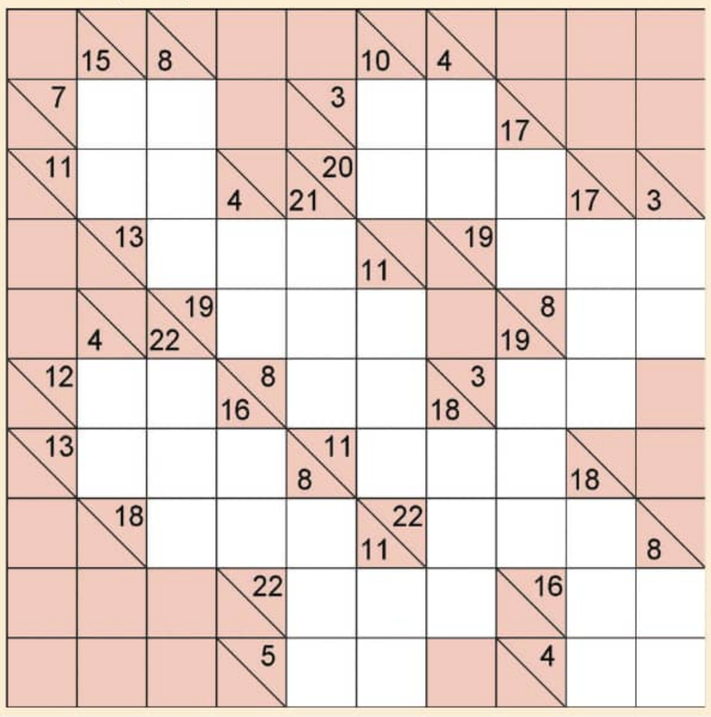
Kakuro

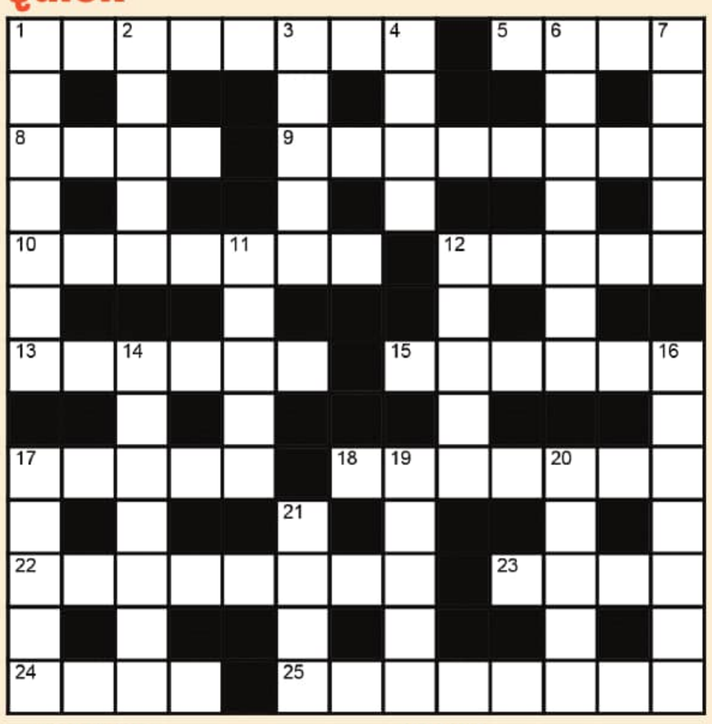
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Our erstwhile PHL team (2-6)
5 Forehead (4)
8 Smear (4)
9 120 dozen? (3,5)
10 Pulling with effort (7)
12 Desiccated (5)
13 Hirsute Biblical hero (6)
15 Intense dislike or aversion (6)
17 On and off? (5)
18 Eightfold (7)
22 Commencing or starting again (8)
23 Misfortunes (4)
24 Pull or tug sharply (4)
25 Put in (8)

DOWN

1 Walks haltingly (7)
2 Threw or hurled? (5)
3 Consumed (5)
4 Sound in mind (4)
6 More spacious (7)
7 ____ up to : came to know about? (5)
11 Fetters (5)
12 A rough copy (5)
14 NY's ____ Square Garden (7)
16 Apparelled (7)
17 Regretful (5)
19 Homes for captive birds? (5)
20 Aircraft captain (5)
21 Short skirt (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS T

AYB GAQLE QC HDCB DG JXDOFBL AYIV AYB MHDVF QC IV BEB, AYB GAQLE QC HQUB DG YBHHQ, KQQPMEB.

Linemaro

I know milk does a body good, but baby, how much have you been drinking?

Mindchow

The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me

Joke of the day

Why aren't there any giraffes in the elementary school? They are all in the High School

Loop

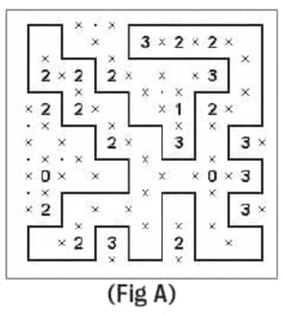
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

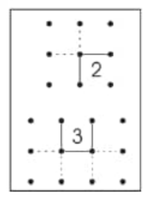
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

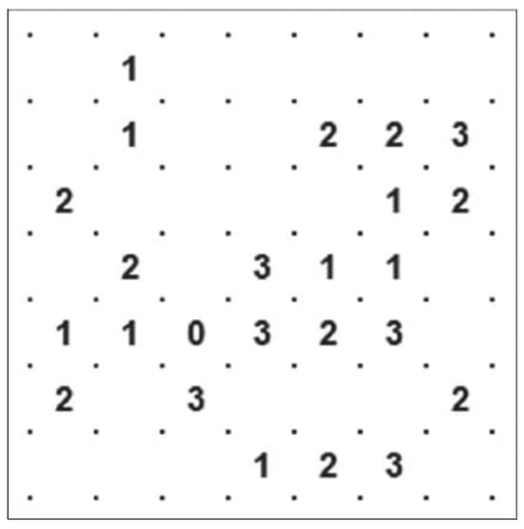
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



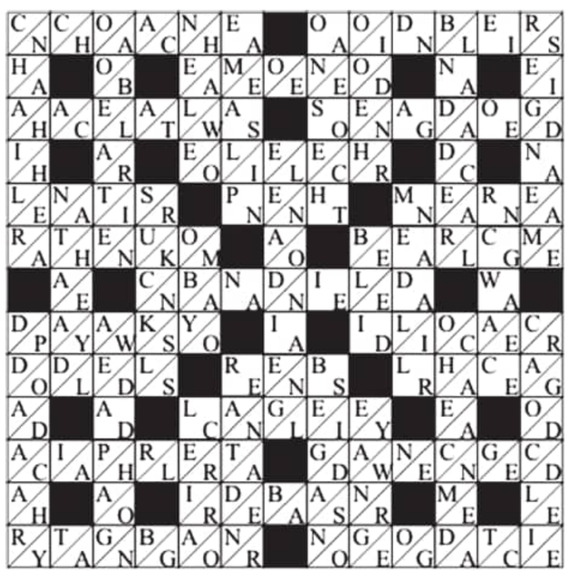
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7			H	
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Mason; 6 Truce; 7 A chad; 8 Choir; 9 A cosh

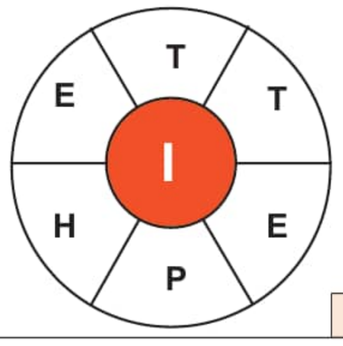
DOWN

1 CID me; 2 Roach; 3 Nauch; 4 A coho; 5 Tsars

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the blank point of the third star.

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2						3	
		5				6		
7		6	3		2	5		4
8		2		7		9		5
	4						7	
5		7		8		3		1
6		1	4		8	7		2
		3				8		
	5						9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

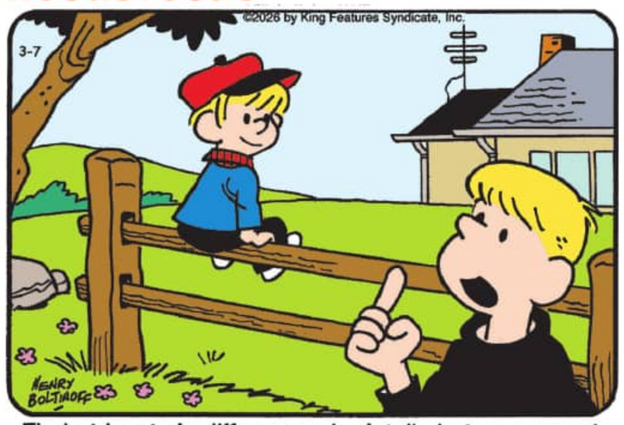
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
2 4 7 8

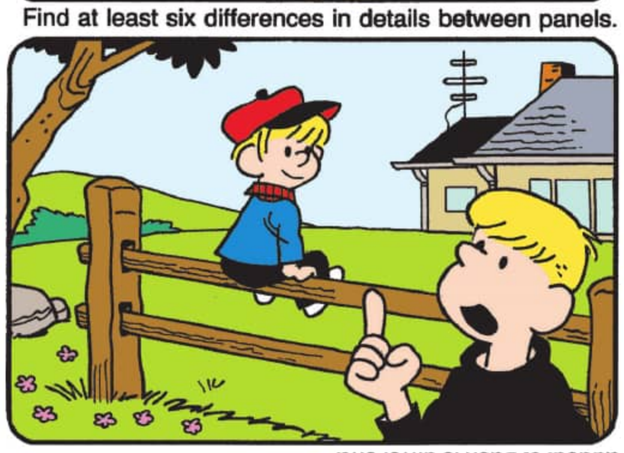
Medium = 20
2 2 4 5

Hard = 4
2 2 3 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



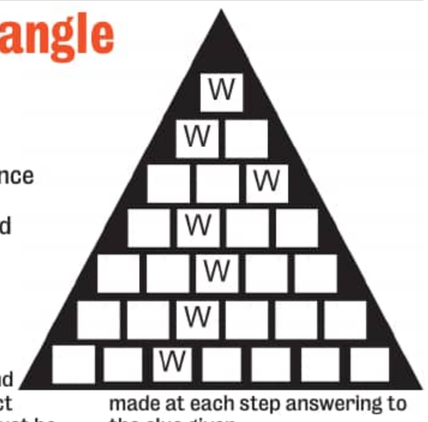
Differences: 1. Boy on fence is moved. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Hair is different. 4. Antenna is different. 5. Window is added. 6. Bush is different.

Riddler

Chuck and Ruby were going to meet at a hotel for their anniversary dinner, but Ruby didn't show. Chuck was angry and left her a passive aggressive message on their kitchen table in the form of fifteen matchsticks spelling "hotel" and went to bed. When Ruby got home and saw the matchsticks, she removed one and went to bed. When Chuck woke up the next morning and saw Ruby's new message, he realized his mistake. Which stick did Ruby remove and what was the new message?

Alpha triangle

1 Watt, abbr.
2 You and I
3 Slick grass
4 Was in debt
5 Widow's inheritance
6 Nursery item
7 Battery-operated

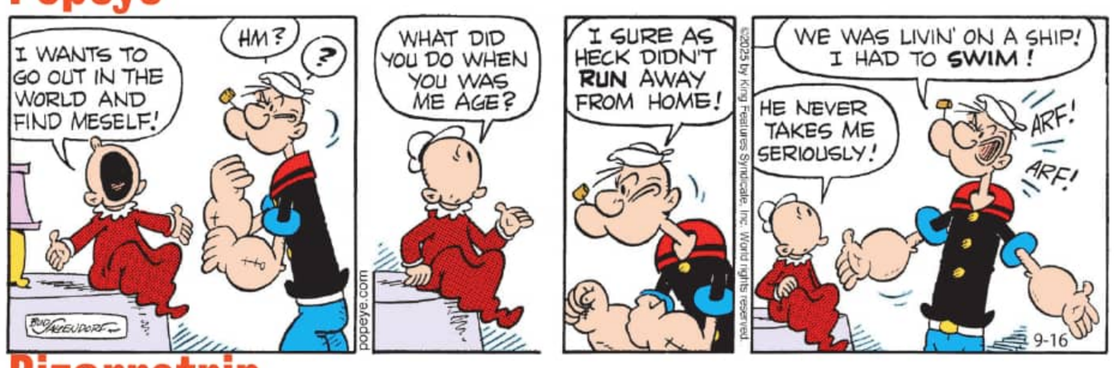


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


I WANTS TO GO OUT IN THE WORLD AND FIND MESELF!
HM?
WHAT DID YOU DO WHEN YOU WAS ME AGE?
I SURE AS HECK DIDN'T RUN AWAY FROM HOME!
WE WAS LIVIN' ON A SHIP! I HAD TO SWIM!
HE NEVER TAKES ME SERIOUSLY!
ARF!
ARF!
9-16
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

WE NOW RETURN TO "HERCULES GOES SQUARE DANCING"
SHRIEEEEEEEK
BOY, WHEN HE SWINGS HIS PARTNER, HE REALLY SWINGS HIS PARTNER
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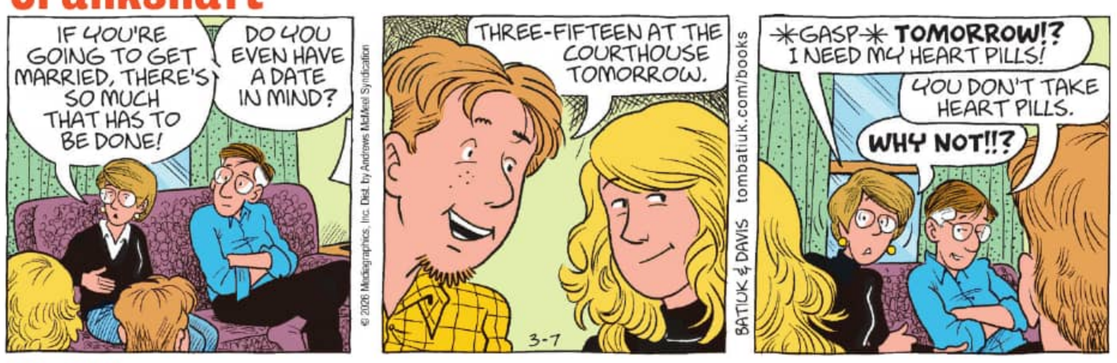
2/10

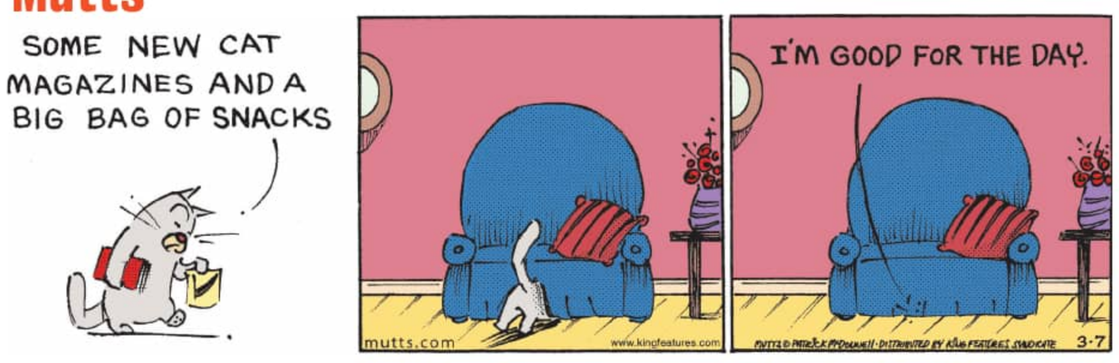
Hart of the city

CAN YOU HELP ME WITH THE BIOLOGY HOMEWORK?
ME?? I'M REALLY NOT THE BEST AT THIS.
BUT YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME! BESIDES, THEN WE CAN HANG OUT OUTSIDE OF CLASS.
FLATTERY WILL GET YOU EVERYWHERE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

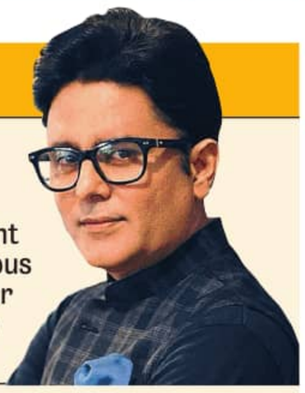

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED, THERE'S SO MUCH THAT HAS TO BE DONE!
DO YOU EVEN HAVE A DATE IN MIND?
THREE-FIFTEEN AT THE COURTHOUSE TOMORROW.
✳GASP✳ TOMORROW!? I NEED MY HEART PILLS!
YOU DON'T TAKE HEART PILLS.
WHY NOT!!?
3-7
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Trust your gut feelings over logic today, especially when dealing with a tricky workplace relationship. Your career benefits from an unexpected endorsement by a former colleague. Financially, money flows smoothly, allowing for a generous charitable donation. Love is transformative; a deep conversation changes your relationship trajectory for the better. Prioritise spinal alignment and posture to reduce fatigue.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today reminds you that your uniqueness and accomplishments deserve genuine celebration and appreciation. Avoid comparing yourself unnecessarily with others around you. Confidence in your own journey helps you recognize just how special and capable you truly are.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Curiosity and mystery surround your day beautifully, encouraging deeper investigation into something intriguing. Your natural instincts guide you toward exciting discoveries and unexpected insights. Exploring the unknown today brings fun, inspiration, and meaningful understanding naturally.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Overthinking may create confusion today, making major decisions feel harder than usual. Instead of forcing clarity, focus on familiar responsibilities and practical matters calmly. Giving your mind space helps avoid mistakes while restoring emotional balance naturally.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Financial planning becomes especially important today, encouraging smarter saving habits and greater awareness around spending. Managing money carefully now creates stronger security for the future. Thoughtful budgeting helps maintain balance, confidence, and long-term stability beautifully.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Working alongside others successfully today requires patience, openness, and respect for different ideas. Listening carefully strengthens teamwork while helping everyone feel valued. Collaborative energy creates better results and earns you greater admiration from people around you.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Organization may feel overwhelming today, making support from others especially valuable and helpful. Clearing clutter around you restores focus, creativity, and productivity beautifully. Asking for assistance strengthens efficiency while helping your environment feel calmer and lighter.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Everything you focus on today carries strong potential for success and achievement over time. Patience and calmness help your goals unfold naturally without unnecessary stress. Protecting your emotional wellbeing keeps your energy balanced and productive beautifully.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Problem-solving proves far more useful today than endlessly searching for the root of every issue. Directing your energy toward practical solutions helps restore momentum quickly. Strategic thinking and action bring clarity, progress, and renewed confidence naturally now.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Luck flows effortlessly toward you today, making everything feel smoother and more rewarding than usual. Opportunities and positive experiences arrive naturally without much effort required. Relax, enjoy yourself, and fully appreciate this easygoing, uplifting energy surrounding you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Be extra mindful about how your skills and generosity are used today. Others may try benefiting unfairly from your talents through charm alone. Protecting your worth carefully ensures your efforts receive the respect and value they deserve.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

People naturally seek your advice and guidance today because they deeply trust your perspective and wisdom. Offer thoughtful, balanced support without personal bias. Helping others sincerely strengthens relationships while attracting positive energy and meaningful karma your way.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Independence becomes an important lesson today, encouraging you to trust your own abilities more confidently. While support systems matter greatly, handling certain responsibilities alone strengthens resilience, self-belief, and your confidence in navigating life successfully yourself.

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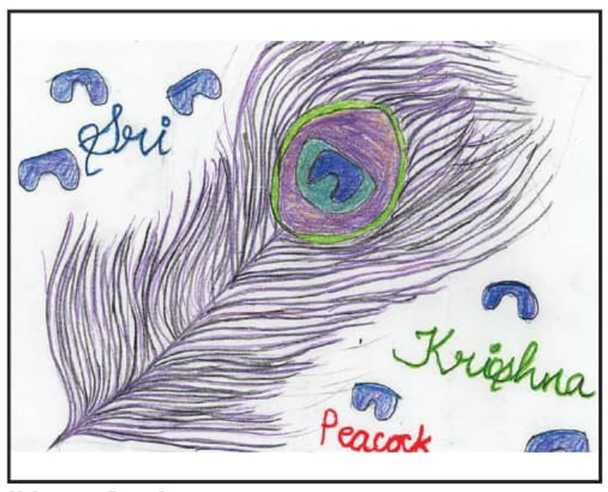
KIDZONE



Aishwarya, Bengaluru

Tharun, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER Ruby had removed the top of the T and the new message could be seen upside down from where Chuck sat at his breakfast of sadness and anger. What he saw was 7 3 1 0 4, or 7/31/04, the date of their anniversary. In his excitement, Chuck had gone to the restaurant a day early, on July 30th. All was forgiven by both parties and Chuck and Ruby had a wonderful dinner together. They also promised to buy a whiteboard for the kitchen so they wouldn't have to use matchstick messages ever again.

BULL'S EYE

EPITHET, pettie, pith, tithe

SOLVE IN 1M

(64 + 4) / (10 + 7)
68 / 17 = 4

FAST FIVE

C	H	A	O	S
I	C	H	O	R
D	A	C	H	A
E	R	U	C	T
M	O	N	A	S

STRIKE OUT

C	H	A	C	H	A		O	O	D	L	E	S
H	A	B	A	M	E	N	D	A	I			
A	L	A	L		S	E	A	D	O	G		
I	A	O	I	L	E	R		D	N			
E	A	T	S		N	E	T		N	E	N	E
R	H	E	U	M		A		B	A	R	G	E
	E		C	A	N	D	I	E	D		W	
P	A	W	K	Y		I		D	I	C	E	R
O	D	E	S		E	N	S		R	H	E	A
A		A		C	A	G	E	Y		A		D
C	A	P	L	E	T		D	A	N	C	E	D
H	O		R	E	B	A	R		M		L	
Y	A	N	G	O	N		N	E	G	A	T	E

QUICK

H	I	F	L	I	E	R	S		B	R	O	W
O		L		A		T	E	N	G	R	O	S
B	L	U	R			E		N		M		E
L	U	G	G	I	N	G		D	R	I	E	D
			R					E				
S	A	M	S	O	N		H	A	T	R	E	D
S	I	D	E	S		O	C	T	U	P	L	E
O		I		M		A		N		I		S
R	E	S	U	M	I	N	G		I	L	L	S
	O		N		E		N		O		E	
Y	A	N	K		I	N	S	E	R	T	E	D

MENSA PUZZLE

E. The sum of the numbers gives the left hand letter, and also the right hand letter in reverse order.

QUOTE UNCODE

The story of life is quicker than the blink of an eye, the story of love is hello, goodbye.

SUDOKU

2	5	8	7	1	6	4	9	3
4	7	3	9	2	5	8	1	6
6	9	1	4	3	8	7	5	2
5	6	7	2	8	9	3	4	1
1	4	9	5	6	3	2	7	8
8	3	2	1	7	4	9	6	5
7	1	6	3	9	2	5	8	4
3	8	5	7	4	1	6	2	9
9	2	4	8	5	6	1	3	7

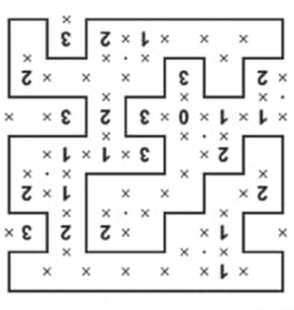
ALPHA TRIANGLE

W, We, Dew, Owed, Dower, Powder, Powered.

GO FIGURE

Easy
8 – 7 + 2 + 4 = 7
Medium
5 x 4 + 2 – 2=20
Hard
2 – 2 – 3 + 7 = 4

LOOP



KAKURO

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